

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
RECOGNITION**

**ARREN GAPASIN, TENTH GRADE, HAVRE DE GRACE HIGH SCHOOL
2009 HCPS BOARD OF EDUCATION HOLIDAY CARD**

November 23, 2009

Background Information:

Each year, the Harford County Public Schools Communications and Art offices combine to conduct a contest seeking artwork to be used as the cover for the school system/Board holiday card. Art teachers are invited to have their students create artwork displaying a winter scene that would be appropriate for the card to be sent to friends and associates of the school system/Board prior to the holiday season. The student(s) whose artwork is chosen is honored by being invited to attend a Board of Education meeting where he/she presents personally signed copies of the card to Board Members, the Student Representative to the Board, and the Superintendent. Each student also receives a framed copy of the card. This year, a holiday postcard will be mailed out to HCPS retirees and an electronic holiday card will be emailed to HCPS stakeholders. Each Board member uses the electronic version of the card in providing greetings to those who have assisted in accomplishing the mission of the Board during the previous year. The Superintendent also uses the electronic card as greetings to those who have assisted the school system during the past year.

Discussion:

During the 2009 contest, more than 50 pieces of artwork were produced by students at the school level, identified by art teachers as being outstanding, and submitted to the HCPS central office to be judged. The artwork of Havre de Grace High School tenth grader Arren Gapasin was selected for use in the HCPS Board of Education holiday postcard and electronic card based on its cheerful message of the holiday season. Arren is currently in Drawing & Painting class, which is a second-tier art class at Havre de Grace High School. The class was asked to utilize graphite pencil to draw and shade a portion of a massive winter-themed still-life displayed in the back of the classroom. The students selected a portion of the still-life that made an interesting and dynamic composition and shaded the drawing using pencil techniques to capture the texture, form, value and contrast of the various objects. Arren's snowman, draped in holiday garland, bulbs and lights, impressed the judges with its representation of the joy of winter and appropriateness as artwork for the holiday card. Arren's art teacher is Jenna Zimmerman.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education of Harford County congratulate Arren Gapasin on her outstanding drawing that was chosen as the artwork for the cover of the 2009 official HCPS/Board holiday greeting card. The Superintendent further recommends the Board congratulate the parents of Arren, her classroom and art teachers for the support of her efforts; and wish Arren continued success in her academic and artistic endeavors.